

Amendments to the Abstract

Please **amend** the Abstract to read.

-- The present invention relates to a method for analyzing abnormal regions on an optical recording medium. The method includes the steps of:

- detecting ~~(21)~~ the abnormal region;
- determining ~~(23, 31)~~ the type of the abnormal region; and
- measuring ~~(24, 32)~~ the length of the abnormal region.

Before playback or recording of an optical recording medium inserted in an apparatus for reading from and/or writing to optical recording media the apparatus determines ~~(21, 23, 24, 31, 32)~~ the positions, lengths and types of abnormal regions on the optical recording medium. The obtained information can then be used, for example, to avoid that during playback or recording a pickup for reading and/or recording unexpectedly encounters an abnormal region. This makes the operation of the apparatus more reliable. --